

March 16, 2009

Re: SB839, An Act Concerning Mergers and Consolidations of Various State Agencies

Do not use SB 839 to eliminate funding for CT Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ). I strongly support CEQ, an organization that tracks and help shepherd the states resources - and does an incredible amount of invaluable work on a very small budget.

I have consistently been impressed with the CEQ annual reports, a key public document tracking state environmental issues. I send them out every year to an extensive email distribution on behalf of the organization Keep the Woods. Members have contacted me noting their dismay at even the consideration of eliminating CEQ.

CEQ provides an independent forum where citizens have a voice, and they hold hearings periodically out in the community. Most members of the CEQ board are volunteers, and CEQ promotes community spirit and volunteerism by being both an incredible organization at the state level and a role model for citizen involvement.

A CEQ Public Forum was instrumental in our efforts to raise awareness and protect a major aquifer and watershed property – the Ethel Walker Woods of Simsbury. I have been to Hartford to CEQ meetings where I spoke on recycling and public transportation. CEQ provides an ongoing forum to channel citizen energy in a positive direction.

In short, CEQ is a unique resource for both the public and the legislature, and promotes an atmosphere of information and communication rather than litigation and controversy.

Respectfully submitted,



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Connecticut Woman of Innovation Finalist – Community Leadership, 2009
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